

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-02

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 NEA-02 /005 R

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R 191734Z JUL 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS STATE 141889

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO BONN ISLAMABAD MOSCOW NEW
DELHI ROME TEHRAN FROM KABUL JULY 17

QUOTE

UNCLAS KABUL 5221

E.O. 11652: EXEMPT

TAGS: PINS, AF

SUBJ: AFGHAN COUP - SITREP 4

REF: KABUL 5197

1. INFORMATION CONTINUES TO BE FRAGMENTARY, BASED UPON
EMBOFFS, DAO PERSONNEL OBSERVATIONS AND REPORTS FROM
AFGHAN INFORMANTS. ALL MAIN ROADS INTO KABUL NOW RPT NOW
CONTROLLED BY ARMORED VEHICLE ROAD BLOCKS WHILE ADDITIONAL
ARMOR MOVING INTO CITY. TANK CANTONMENT ON PEHSAWAR ROAD
AT PUL-I-CHARKI HAS REMAINING TANKS, REPORTEDLY, GATHERED
IN READINESS TO MOVE.

2. DAVID SCOTT, ACTING UNDP RESREP ADVISED THAT OSMAN RPT
OSMAN, FORMER MEMBER AFGHAN FOREIGN SERVICE AND NOW FULL
TIME EMPLOYEE UN NARCOTICS ORGANIZATION GENEVA VISITING KABUL
IN CONNECTION UN-AFGHAN NARCOTICS PROGRAM IS CLOSE RELATIVE
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OF DAUD AND ACCORDING OSMAN HE WAS WITH DAUD AT 0400 HOURS

JULY 17 WHILE DAUD DRAFTING HIS RADIO MESSAGE (PARA FOUR OF REF). SCOTT SAID OSMAN REPORTED COUP CARRIED OUT BY "FIFTY YOUNG OFFICERS" UNDER DAUD AND THAT NO RPT NO DEATHS EXCEPT FOR TWO SOLDIERS. OSMAN REPORTED THAT "GOVERNMENT AND ROYAL FAMILY ALL IN CUSTODY" AND OBSERVED THAT "TIME FOR COSMETICS IS OVER, DAUD IS A REALIST". ALSO NOTED THAT DAUD BELIEVED THAT NEXT 36 TO 48 HOURS WOULD SEE IF COUNTER COUP WOULD BE ATTEMPTED.

3. CONFLICTING REPORTS CONCERNING ADBUL WALI ABOUND, SOME SAY KILLED IN SHELLING OF HIS RESIDENCE, OTHERS SAY EXECUTED ALONG WITH MINDEF, ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF AND COMMANDING OFFICERS MEMBER OF MILITARY UNITS. OTHER REPORTS (ABOVE) THAT HE NEITHER INJURED NOR DEAD, AND UNDER ARREST. THERE ALSO UNCONFIRMED REPORT THAT MANY "POLITICAL PRISONERS" RELEASED FROM DEHMAZANG PRISON.

4. VEHICLES OF ARMORED UNITS CONTINUE TO ENTER CITY. SOME TOURING RESIDENTIAL AREAS WITH TROOPS RIDING ON TOP SHOUTING "DAUD ZINDABAD" (LONG LIVE DAUD), "ABDUL WALI AND WALI KHAN MORDABAD" (DEATH TO ABDUL WALI AND WALI KHAN). THERE LITTLE OR NO RESPONSE FROM USUAL HOMEWARD BOUND PEOPLE.

5. CHICAGO TRIBUNE REPORTER, KIRK FROM TOKYO BUREAU WHO ENTERED KABUL FROM KHYBER JULY 17 IN CONNECTION WITH XKHYBER PASS ATMOSPHERICS" STORY REPORTED THAT HE ATTEMPTED ENTER KABUL'S MUNICIPAL HOSPITAL AFTERNOON OF JULY 17. HE SAID HOSPITAL GUARDED BY TROOPS AND HE AGRILY TURNED AWAY BY AFGHAN DOCTOR IN BLOODIED HOSPITAL CLOTHING. KIRK INTERPRETS THIS EXPERIENCE TO MEAN HIGH LEVEL PERSONAGES INJURED AND HOSPITALIZED.

6. SEPTTEL REPORTS MFA REQUEST TO ALL DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS FOR RECOGNITION AND ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THERE IS NO RPT NO CURFEW.

7. THIS IS OUR LAST SITREP FOR JULY 17 UNLESS THERE UNUSUAL DEVELOPMENT.

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